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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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DIST 16 OCTOBER 1972

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1. MOST OF THE LARGER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND MANY OF THE SMALLER ONES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF SANTIAGO OPENED FOR BUSINESS ON 16 OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL A LARGE NUMBER OF THE SMALL BUSINESSES CLOSED IN SOME SECTORS OF THE CITY. GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WERE SIGHTED IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA THE MORNING OF 16 OCTOBER, APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THE STORE OWNERS TO CLOSE THEIR SHOPS.

2. THE NATIONAL PARTY (PN) WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF THE STRIKE, WHICH WAS PROVOKED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT IT HAS HAD TO SUPPORT IT FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, ALTHOUGH THE PN

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DIRECTORATE BELIEVES THAT THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVE FOR THE STRIKE, THE DOWNFALL OF THE GOVERNMENT, IS NOT FOUNDED IN ANY REALISTIC PLAN. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) ALSO DID NOT FAVOR THE STRIKE, BUT IT TOO IS GOING ALONG AT THE PRESENT TIME FOR MUCH THE SAME REASONS AS THE PN.

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3. THUS FAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ONLY ONE SERIOUS MISTAKE; I.E., ALLOWING THE RADIO STATIONS TO REINITIATE REGULAR BROADCASTING. THE PUBLIC WAS LARGELY UNINFORMED ABOUT WHAT WAS OCCURRING ON THE STRIKE UNTIL NATIONAL RADIO HOOK-UP WAS LIFTED. IF THIS HAD BEEN CONTINUED, THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROBABLY HAVE BROKEN THE STRIKE IN A DAY OR TWO BY PLAYING ONE ELEMENT AGAINST ANOTHER. IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MAKE FEW MISTAKES IN THIS CRISIS, IT COULD COME OUT OF THIS SITUATION MUCH STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

(COMMENT: CHILEAN RADIO STATIONS WERE OBLIGATED TO TIE-IN TO THE NATIONAL RADIO HOOK-UP THE EVENING OF 15 OCTOBER. AS OF 1200 HOURS ON 16 OCTOBER THE RADIO HOOK-UP WAS STILL IN EFFECT.)

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4. AT APPROXIMATELY 1130 HOURS SMALL GROUPS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATORS ^A BEGAN/MARCH THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN AREA NEAR THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THEY WERE DISPERSED BY CANABINEROS (NATIONAL POLICE) WATER TRUCKS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: SOME OF THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH OPENED THE MORNING OF 16 OCTOBER CLOSED THEIR DOORS UPON INITIATION OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS. IF THE DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE, IT IS LIKELY THAT MOST OF THE PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS WILL SHUT DOWN.)

5. THE COOPERATIVE FARM WORKERS WERE SUPPOSED TO DECLARE THEIR STRIKE ON 16 OCTOBER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO "LA PRENSA" OF 16 OCTOBER THE TRIUNFO CAMPESENO FEDERATION WILL DECLARE A STRIKE EFFECTIVE 17 OCTOBER.) THE FEDERATION OF BUS DRIVERS IS TO HAVE A PLENUM ON 17 OCTOBER AND IS EXPECTED TO JOIN THE GENERAL STRIKE. THE PN HAS COUNSELED THE MEDICAL DOCTORS, WHO WANT TO DECLARE A STRIKE ON 17 OCTOBER, TO WAIT UNTIL 18 OCTOBER. THE FEELING OF PN LEADERS IS THAT A MEDICAL STRIKE COULD BE AN EXTREMELY POTENT PRESSURE POINT ON THE GOVERNMENT AND IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL THE CAMPESEINOS AND BUS DRIVERS HAVE ACTED.

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6. AT APPROXIMATELY 12:05 P.M., THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION OF THE PRESIDENCY (OIR) ANNOUNCED OVER THE NATIONAL RADIO HOOK-UP THAT STUDENTS OF THE STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (UTEL) WOULD DISTRIBUTE MEAT AND RICE AT THE MAPOCHO STATION IN SANTIAGO. OTHER STUDENTS WOULD DISTRIBUTE MILK, AND THE PROVINCIAL BRIGADE OF THE CHILEAN LABOR CONFEDERATION (CUT) WOULD PASS OUT POTATOES AND OTHER FOOD. THE OIR ANNOUNCER ALSO SAID THAT THE INTENDANT OF SANTIAGO HAD MADE A TRIP THROUGH THE CAPITAL CITY THE MORNING OF 16 OCTOBER AND FOUND THAT ALL OF THE STORES SELLING FOOD WERE OPEN AND THAT THE MAJORITY OF OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WERE OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

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